



February 3, 2010

Andrew Crabtree
Principal Planner
Department of Planning, Building, & Code Enforcement
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Transportation policies have a profound impact on community health

Dear Mr. Crabtree and Members of the General Plan Task Force:

On behalf of The Health Trust, a Silicon Valley nonprofit foundation committed to advancing wellness, I am writing to share some important facts and creative solutions to how we can make the City of San Jose a healthy city for all.

- Obesity rates in the United States have increased dramatically in the last thirty years. Approximately two-thirds of U.S. adults and one-fifth of children are either obese or overweight.
- Overweight people are at risk of many chronic diseases including heart disease and diabetes.
- More than half of Americans would like to walk more and drive less. Poor community design and lack of pedestrian facilities are the primary reasons people cite for not walking more.
- An overwhelming percentage support policies intended to make their communities more livable by reducing traffic speed and creating a safer pedestrian environment.

For these reasons, we urge the Task Force to incorporate the following measures into San Jose's General Plan:

- Ensure that pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders of all ages and abilities can safely share the street network.
- Identify barriers to pedestrian and bicycle access, especially at transit stations, and prioritize completion of these gaps.

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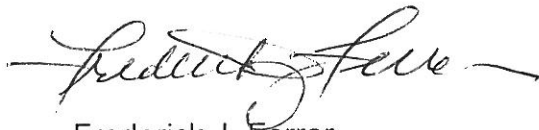
A bold vision for Silicon Valley ... Becoming the healthiest region in America!

- Plan and implement a continuous network of walkways and bikeways and ensure they connect people with primary destinations (transit stations, job centers, shops, offices, libraries, parks).

In addition we strongly encourage the City of San Jose to adopt aggressive transportation mode shares for the Envision San Jose General Plan.

Thank you so much for your continued commitment to this process and to the health of our community.

Yours in health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick J. Ferrer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frederick J. Ferrer
Chief Executive Officer